

Remarks

Claims 1-24 were pending when last examined, all of which stand rejected. Claims 1, 6, 9-11, 13, and 21-24 are amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-2, 6, 7, 9, 14, 18, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,525,707 to Kaneko et al. (“Kaneko”). Kaneko discloses a liquid crystal display device that displays letters and marks.

Although the above claims are rejected in light of Kaneko’s Figures 21 and 22, Kaneko’s Figures 20-23 show a two-stage LCD device including a first LCD (61) and a second LCD (63) that lies on the first LCD. By applying a voltage to the electrodes in the second LCD, a shutter portion of the device is “opened” so that the letter display controlled by the first LCD can be viewed by a user. On the other hand, if no voltage is applied to the second LCD, the shutter portion of the device is “closed” so that the user only sees a “silver mirror display” (Kaneko, col. 17, line 33) instead of the image formed by the first LCD. Thus, in Kaneko’s device, multiple LCD panels are needed to switch back and forth between a letter display mode and a “silver mirror display” mode.

In contrast to Kaneko’s device, the LCD device of the invention does not require multiple LCD panels. The LCD device of the invention switches between a display state and a reflective (mirror) state without the aid of a “shutter,” by turning on/off the LCD module itself.

To highlight the fact that multiple LCD panels are not necessary with the invention, Claim 1 has been amended to recite “consisting essentially of” instead of “comprising.” As multiple LCDs are essential to Kaneko’s device, this amendment overcomes the rejection over Kaneko. Thus, Claims 1-2, 6, 7, 9, 14, 18, 19, and 21 are patentable over Kaneko.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 3 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,699,188 to Gilbert (“Gilbert”). The rejection is based on the assumption that “Kaneko teaches all the limitations of Claim 3 except the reflection polarizing plate reflection light above 50% of external light.” However, as explained above, Kaneko no longer teaches all the limitations of claim 1 because Kaneko has at least one extra essential element. Thus, Claim 3 is patentable over a combination of Kaneko and Gilbert.

Claim 15 depends from Claim 13, which has also been amended to indicate that extra liquid crystal display panel is not an essential element. Thus, Claim 15 is patentable over Kaneko and Gilbert for at least the same reasons as Claim 3.

Claims 10 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,882,774 to Jonza ("Jonza"). The rejection is based on the assumption that "Kaneko teaches all the limitations of Claim 10 except a reflective polarizer being a dual-brightness enhancement film." However, as explained above, Kaneko no longer teaches all the limitations of claim 1 because Kaneko has at least one extra essential element. At least for these reasons, Claim 10 is patentable over a combination of Kaneko and Jonza.

Claim 22 depends from Claim 13, which has also been amended to indicate that extra liquid crystal display panel is not an essential element. Thus, Claim 22 is patentable over Kaneko and Gilbert for at least the same reasons as Claim 10.

Claims 4 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,099,993 to Kim ("Kim"). The rejection is based on the assumption that "Kaneko teaches all the limitations of Claims 4 and 16 except the upper substrate having color filters arranged in a matrix shape, and a black matrix disposed between them." However, as explained above, Kaneko no longer teaches all the limitations of claim 1 from which Claim 4 depends because Kaneko has at least one extra essential element. Likewise, Kaneko does not teach all the limitations of Claim 13 from which Claim 16 depends. At least for these reasons, Claims 4 and 16 are patentable over a combination of Kaneko and Kim.

Claims 8 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,035,928 to Kozaki ("Kozaki") and U.S. Patent No. 6,144,426 to Kamazaki ("Kamazaki"). The rejection is based on the assumption that "Kaneko teaches all the limitations of Claims 8 and 20 except the first and second polarization axes being parallel (polarizers on each side of liquid crystal cell." However, as explained above, Kaneko no longer teaches all the limitations of claim 1 from which Claim 8 depends because Kaneko has at least one extra essential element. Likewise, Kaneko does not teach all the limitations of Claim 13 from which Claim 20 depends. At least for these reasons, Claims 8 and 20 are patentable over a combination of Kaneko and Kim.

Claims 11-12 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,532,049 to Li ("Li"). The rejection is based on the assumption

that "Kaneko teaches all the limitations of Claims 11-12 and 23-24 except the selective reflection film being a circular selective reflection film of cholesteric liquid crystal." However, as explained above, Kaneko no longer teaches all the limitations of claim 1 from which Claims 11-12 depend because Kaneko has at least one extra essential element. Likewise, Kaneko does not teach all the limitations of Claim 13 from which Claims 23-24 depend. At least for these reasons, Claims 8 and 20 are patentable over a combination of Kaneko and Kim.

New Claim

Claim 25 has been newly added. Claim 25 is distinguishable from Kaneko at least because it recites that there is "no more than one liquid crystal display panel...." Thus, Claim 25 is patentable over Kaneko.

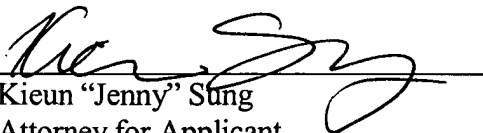
For the reasons stated above, Claims 1-25 are now in condition for allowance. Please telephone the undersigned attorney at (650) 833-2121 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2/10, 2006

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